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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

February, 2001 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by April 1, 2001 their membership will become effective on that date.

2595-MT Dr. Richard Bode, P. O. Box 871, Emporia, Kansas 66801
(World Coins, Philippine Islands Guerilla Notes, Russian Banknotes and Replacement Notes)

2596 William B. Mills, 777 Bayshore Drive, #1002, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33304
(Paraguay - Coins, Medals & Tokens, Die Varieties of the 1845 1/12 Real and the 1874 4 Centesimos)

* * * * *

DONATIONS REPORT

We have received the following donations since the last report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Preference of Use</u>
BRUCK, Frederick R.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
ZANDER, Ervin D.	\$5.00 Cash	NI Reference Collection

* * * * *

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The NI Librarian has nothing to report for this period as it has not received any donations to the NI Library. Everyone should be aware that our growth depends on the generosity of the NI membership. Please keep the NI Library in mind when clearing your shelves of excess numismatic material.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian
James D. Haley, Periodical Librarian

FROM THE MAILBOX

Contributor responds to criticism of medal articles.

As O. D. Cresswell's Mailbox item in the January issue of the *NI Bulletin* is clearly aimed at me personally, I feel I must reply.

The term "numismatics" covers medals as well as coins, so why religious medals shouldn't feature in *NI Bulletin* is unclear to me. Of course, they don't interest everybody (what does?), but if our editor does not have other material to hand to fill the *Bulletin*, then I would have thought that religious medals were preferable to empty pages! Let me make it clear to any concerned readers that the editor and I have a working arrangement whereby my religious "series" is not allowed to squeeze out more mainstream numismatic articles by other members, but works *around* them. I should also add that other members have encouraged me to "plough on" both because they enjoy the articles and because there is very little in print in English in this field. A straight catalog of religious medals would indeed be rather dull reading, but I hope that my articles weave these medals into narratives which are sufficiently entertaining to appeal to the general reader, whilst at the same time being properly researched sources of information that "fill a gap" in medallic literature. O. D.'s comment about the Parish Magazine is unworthy: not once have I mentioned cucumber sandwiches at the vicarage, or bring-and-buy sales....

As for O.D.'s other comment about cheap costume jewellery, this surely demonstrates the same mind-set that long marginalised 18th century English trade-tokens as "not serious numismatics", and in O.D.'s case I would ask what makes a modern Thai amulet less significant than the communion tokens about which he has written? I know that many NI readers share my view that some of the most interesting numismatic items are the "oddball" pieces that turn up in junk boxes. Among these are queer amuletic coins/jewellery items, interesting because of the problems of their interpretation and the belief-systems behind them. The piece to which O.D. refers - not actually from a junk box, but certainly a future candidate for one - defied the best linguists I approached - and I approached several in some very well-known institutions! Not one of them treated it like O.D. as a thing beneath serious consideration, and it is rather sad that he can only snipe grumpily from the sidelines without offering any constructive ideas whatever as to its translation/interpretation.

Finally, I have to say that in penning his Mailbox item O.D. has rather shot himself in the foot, if not in both feet. He appeals for "higher standards" and complains about what is being published in his "respected journal", yet in the past few years he himself has contributed very little beyond his schoolboyish April Fool's prank! Worse, his last sentence suggests that he himself does not intend to lead a 'renaissance' of *NI Bulletin* - he seems to want other members to write "worthwhile material" for him (according to his definition of "worthwhile", of course!). There is a pithy phrase for this sort of thing where I come from, but I won't use it here as there are ladies present. Rather I will simply suggest that O.D. "leads from the front" and himself writes something more worthwhile for the *Bulletin* than his "St. Brige" item! That way at least he can guarantee there won't be quite as much space for me to use, and thus not quite so much for him to grumble about. In short, O.D., put up or shut up!

Bob Forrest
Manchester, England

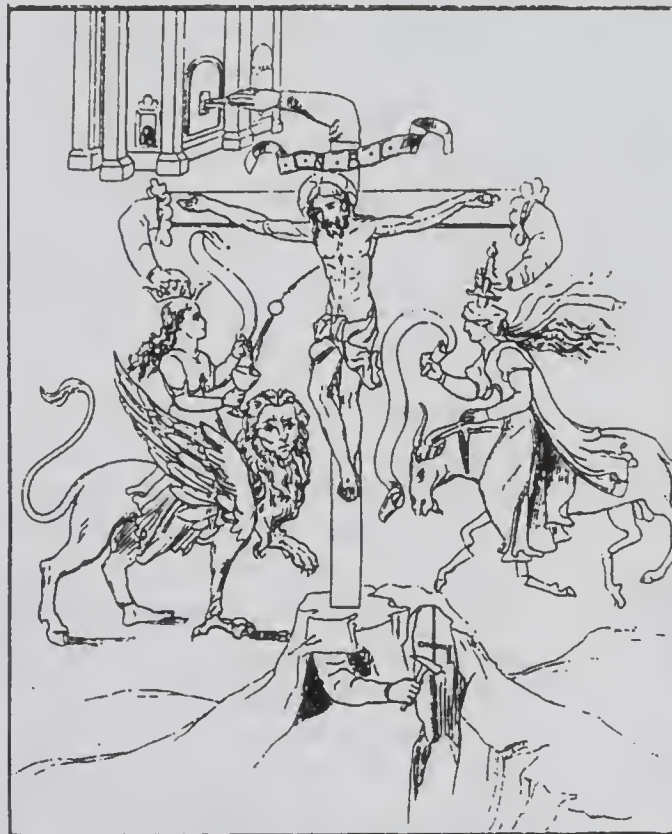
DIGRESSIONS ON A THEME OF THE CRUCIFIXION: IV

Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382

It was, the dealer's description of it in his sales catalogue said, a George II halfpenny, holed for suspension, with a smoothed reverse on which had been engraved a crucifixion scene described thus:

"Crucified figure, snake around torso, feet on globe."

That snake was what caught my attention, of course. You don't see many of those in crucifixion scenes - well, not in orthodox representations anyway. But then not all representations of the crucifixion are orthodox. Far from it.



The Crucifixion with Church and Synagogue.

Fig. 1

Take, for example, the bizarre concoction in Fig. 1, which is a 16th century drawing relating to a fresco in a church in Bologna in northern Italy, and which is so symbolically elaborate that even the generally respectful Anna Jameson called it "a frightful pictorial monstrosity" and "an insult to Art"! (1)

To the left of the Cross is a woman seated on a beast with the combined attributes of an angel, a winged lion, a winged bull and an eagle. She represents the Church, the angel, lion, bull and eagle symbolising the four Evangelists - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John respectively (2).

To the right of the Cross is a blindfolded woman riding a goat. She represents the 'blind', wilful unbelievers in Christ - Jameson mentions specifically the Synagogue as opposed to the Church - the goat being seemingly a symbol of perdition (3), as in

Matthew 25.31ff, where we are told that at the Last Judgment Christ will gather all nations before him and "separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." The sheep are Christ's followers, who will go to Heaven; the goats the unbelievers who will go to Hell.

Note the four human arms which reach out from the four extremities of the Cross: one crowns the Church; another plunges a sword into the Synagogue. The arm at the top of the Cross unlocks the gate of Heaven for believers; the one at the foot of the Cross opens the way to Hell for unbelievers.

Another unorthodox crucifixion scene, dating from the 9th century, is an ivory diptych to be found in the Vatican. It is described, but not, alas, illustrated, by C. I. Hemans (4), thus:

"Here, in mystic treatment, we see the Sun and Moon, above the Cross, as Genii holding torches, accessories henceforth frequently introduced in this scene, and believed to signify the Divine and Human Nature in Christ, the one radiant through its own, the other through reflected light; also, below the Cross, Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf, an extraordinary association, probably - for this seems best conjecture - intended to allude to the victory won by the Saviour, through His Passion, over all nations, the ancient world in fact, thus represented by the Empire in its traditional origin; a sublime sense farther carried out in the figure of an Angel, flying with a palm and flaming torch, symbols of the light and triumph of the Gospel..."



Fig 2

Yet another strange crucifixion scene - an interesting companion to Christ crucified on the Tree of Life, as described in Part II (5) - is the image of Christ crucified on a lily plant (6). The example shown in Fig. 2 is from a 15th century window in St. Michael's Church, Oxford. The theme appears to be a peculiarly English one, and examples of it are known from the 14th to the 16th centuries. The precise symbolism intended by this representation is not known with any certainty, but it seems likely that it depicts "the beginning and the end" of Christ's earthly incarnation, in the sense that the Lily, the flower held out to the Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation (7), signifies the beginning, to the Crucifixion's ending. This idea is reinforced by the fact that in the Middle Ages it was believed that the Annunciation and Crucifixion both took place on March 25th, a coincidence of dates that provides us with another possible thread of symbolism, in that the spring-time renewal of living vegetation (here represented by the Lily of the Annunciation) prefigures the redemption of the human race through Christ's sacrifice at the Crucifixion. If there is any truth to this, then Christ's crucifixion on the Lily is indeed the first cousin to his crucifixion on the Tree of Life. There are, however, other possibilities. One sees

"the spring-time renewal of vegetation" theme as prefiguring the Resurrection rather than the Redemption. Yet another interpretation sees Fig. 2 relating as much to the Virgin Mary as to Christ, the Lily/Annunciation being representative of the Seven Joys of the Virgin, whilst the Crucifixion is representative of her Seven Sorrows (8).

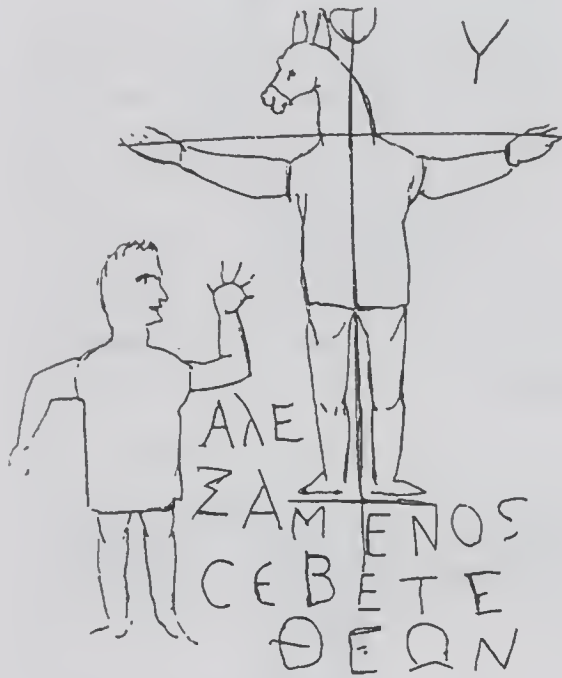


Fig. 3

In each of the foregoing, of course, it is the symbolic extension of the basic crucifixion scene which results in the oddness of the image. Other curiosities arise from anti-Christian satires, ranging from the famous "mocking crucifix" found scratched on the wall of the Paedagogium of the Palatine in Rome, and dating from the late second or early third century AD (Fig. 3; note 9) to the bizarre etchings by the 19th century Belgian artist Felicien Rops, which are obscene and blasphemous enough for me not to risk offending readers of the *NI Bulletin* by reproducing any of them here. Suffice it to say that they are curiously intriguing once you get over the initial shock - as much for the insight they give into Rops' mental landscape as for their iconographic value (10)!

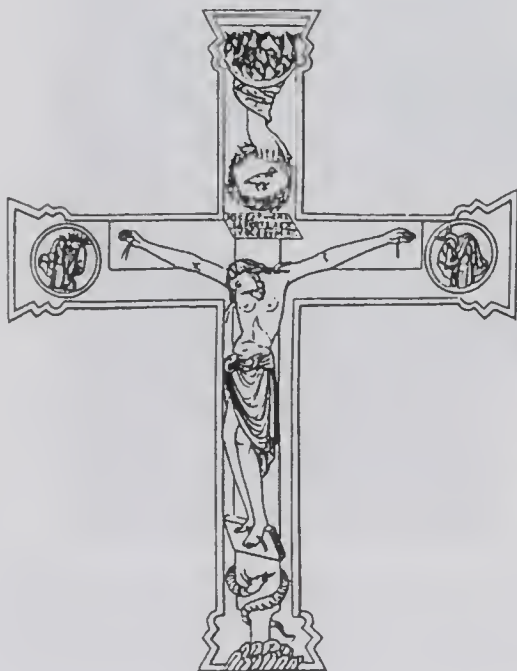


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

But to get back to that engraved crucifixion scene with a snake wound around the torso of Christ and a globe at his feet, I was much intrigued by the symbolic

possibilities. Did the snake denote Christ crucified by the powers of Satan - "that old Serpent, called the Devil" (Rev. 12.9)? I recalled the snake wound around the base of the 9th century Cross of Lothario (Fig. 4; note 11). Did the globe at Christ's feet signify the World? I recalled the Jubilee Medal pictured actual size in Fig. 5, and described in a previous article (12). Suffice it to say, I nearly broke a leg getting my order into the post.

Unfortunately, disappointment was in store. I was first in with my order and secured the piece alright - it is pictured below (actual size) in Fig. 6 - but I'm afraid the snake turned out to be no more than a poorly rendered loin cloth, imitating the type of the somewhat more skillfully executed version in the woodcut by Albrecht Dürer in Fig. 7. Or maybe I had better play safe and say that I personally cannot see a snake in Fig. 6. As for the 'globe' at Christ's feet, closer inspection shows it to be a poorly rendered skull, a reference to Golgotha, "the place of a skull" (Matt.27.33), the name of the place where Christ was crucified, and which is regularly represented in paintings of the crucifixion by a skull at the base of the Cross - again, as in Fig. 7 (13).



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

My engraved coin turned out not to be nearly as interesting as I'd hoped, then. Nevertheless it was a good illustration of how different people can interpret the same thing in different ways, and it was, after all, someone's home-made expression of faith, and interesting on that account.

But let us console ourselves with a genuine "alternative crucifixion scene". It features on the Spanish aluminium medal shown 1½ times actual size in Fig. 8. Its obverse shows Christ crucified, a host emblazoned with the IHS monogram in the background.



Fig. 8

Christ's sacred heart burns within his breast and illuminates an open book to the lower left. At the foot of the Cross is a Crown resting on a cushion. The legend reads S CRISTO DEL AMOR MISERICORDIOSO, meaning "Most Holy Christ of Merciful Love." (Some of the intricate symbolism behind all this will be pursued in a future article, "A Miscellany of Symbols".)



Cuadro pintado por P. M. Salasilla al Excmo. Sr. Nuncio de S. N. en España.

Os adoramos, Jesús, y os bendecimos,
porque por Vuestra Santa Cruz habéis redimido al mundo.

Oh Jesús
por el poder de vuestro Amor Misericordioso
salvados!

Dad la paz a vuestra Iglesia
y al mundo entero!

Conclusión del llamamiento a los católicos del mundo entero en el XIX centenario de la Redención.

Católicos, acudid todos al llamamiento del Papa y celebrad este 19º centenario del gran misterio de la Redención

el Amor Misericordioso de vuestro Salvador.

Mirad hasta que punto El os ha amado...

Estabais perdidos! El os ha rescatado con su sangre: a tan alto precio!

El os devuelve la vida, os da su Espíritu, su Iglesia y a María por Madre vuestra...

Exaltad su Cruz!

Unos a su Hostia... siempre viva.

Rendidlo el testimonio de vuestra fe y de vuestro afecto y adhesión a la Iglesia mediante el cumplimiento del Mandato que El os ha dado, y que Ella os recuerda:

Amaos los unos a los otros, como yo os he amado.

En nombre de la humanidad entera, en una disposición de arrepentimiento y de verdadera contrición, con la resolución de una vida sinceramente cristiana,

y transportados de amor y reconocimiento por las gracias incomparables que habéis recibido, cantad de un extremo a otro del Universo:

Gloria, Amor, Honor, Alabanza,

Reconocimiento sin límites

AL AMOR MISERICORDIOSO

que nos ha sacado del abismo y nos ha abierto los cielos...

Que El sea en todas partes conocido amado imitado ofrecido!

y que su Reino venga

sobre la tierra... como en los Cielos!

P. M. Salasilla.

IMPRIMATUR
Dr. Luis A. Blázquez
Censor
Dr. J. Francisco Morán
Vicario General
Madrid 8 de Febrero de 1933

HAUSER Y MENET MADRID

Fig. 9

I might never have known the story behind this medal had it not been for the fact that a couple of days *before* acquiring it I had bought the Spanish devotional print shown in Fig. 9 which explains all - a curious case of finding the answer before the question has even been asked, and made all the more curious by the fact that medal and print were acquired in shops fully 50 miles apart! Whatever, the print shows that the medal is based on a painting done by one P. M. Sulamitis, apparently a Frenchman, for the Papal Nuncio in Spain, to commemorate the 19th centennial of Christ's crucifixion. That is, it was produced in or about 1933, it being traditionally accepted that Christ was 33 years old when he was crucified.

Close examination of the print shows that Christ's burning heart bears the word CARITAS (= Latin for Christian love), and that the open book, symbolising the Gospels, bears the text of John 15.12 in French: "Aimez-vous les uns les autres, comme je vous ai aimés" = "Love one another as I have loved you." The scroll at the bottom reads L'AMOUR MISERICORDIEUX, the French equivalent of the Spanish EL AMOR MISERICORDIOSO in the obverse legend of the medal. The scroll itself is absent from the medal, of course, having been replaced by the Crown and Cushion.



Fig. 10

The reverse of Fig. 8 shows the figure of the Virgin Mary, the Dove of the Holy Ghost hovering above her, radiating light, with the legend MARIA MEDIADORA ROGAD POR NOS, meaning, "Mary Mediatrix, pray for us". This refers to the Virgin Mary in her role as the special mediator (Mediatrix) between humanity and Christ & God (14). The medal, in effect, urges her to continue to intercede on our behalf.

Unfortunately, the medal being relatively small, much of the symbolic detail of this representation of the Virgin is not clear, but readers will see from the accompanying Spanish print (Fig. 10) that Mary stands on a crescent moon and crushes a serpent beneath her feet, emblems of her role as the Immaculate Conception (15). A lily symbolic of purity grows before her and out of its flower appears a host bearing the IHS monogram. She stands in front of a rainbow, a symbol of reconciliation between God and Man, this significance deriving ultimately from Gen 9.13 (16).

Notes.

- (1) *The History of Our Lord as exemplified in Works of Art*, commenced by the late Mrs. Jameson, continued and completed by Lady Eastlake (1865), vol. 2, p.200-202.
- (2) W. Ellwood Post, *Saints, Signs and Symbols: A Concise Dictionary* (1989), p.11.
- (3) George Ferguson, *Signs & Symbols in Christian Art* (1961), p.19 (article "Goat").
- (4) C. I. Hemans, *A History of Ancient Christianity and Sacred Art in Italy* (1866), p.534-5.
- (5) *NI Bulletin*, September 2000, p.254-258.
- (6) "An Alabaster Table of the Annunciation with the Crucifix: a Study in English Iconography" by W. L. Hildburgh, in *Archaeologia* vol. 74 (1923-4), p.203-232; and by the same author, "Some further Notes on the Crucifix on the Lily" in *The Antiquaries Journal* vol. 12 (1932), p.24-26.
- (7) For a medallic example, see "The Immaculate Conception" in *NI Bulletin*, December 1998, p.306-7, referring to the reverse of Fig. 1 of that article.
- (8) Christopher Woodforde, *The Norwich School of Glass Painting in the Fifteenth Century* (1950), p.92.
- (9) The graffito apparently mocks a Christian named Alexamenos, depicting him worshipping the crucified - and donkey headed - Christ (the inscription translates as "Alexamenos worships his god"). The significance of the donkey is open to debate, but it may represent what pagan Romans saw as the stubborn stupidity of Christ and his followers, who would die rather than renounce their faith. Fig. 3 is taken from Thomas Heaphy, "An Examination into the Antiquity of the Likeness of Our Blessed Lord", in *The Art Journal* (1861), p.5. For a photograph see Pietro Romanelli, *The Palatine* (Guide Books to the Museums, Galleries & Monuments of Italy, no.45, 1965 edition), plate 68, with relevant text on p.26 & p.38.
- (10) See, for example, "Les Sataniques III" (1884) and "Mary Magdalene" (c.1885). They are reproduced as figs. 136 & 137 in Peter Webb, *The Erotic Arts* (1980), with relevant text on p.180-182.
- (11) Anna Jameson, as note 1, vol. 2, p.329-330.
- (12) "Jubilee Medals" in *NI Bulletin*, January 2001, p.10-11.
- (13) For further details see "Digressions on a Theme of the Crucifixion I" in *NI Bulletin*, August 2000, p.223-230.
- (14) See, for example, the articles "Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace" in Michael Freze, *Patron Saints* (1992), p.197; and "Mediatrix of All Graces" in Michael Walsh, *A Dictionary of Devotions* (1993), p.173. According to the latter, this Marian role has been rather "played down" since the Second Vatican Council of 1962-1965.
- (15) See "The Immaculate Conception" in *NI Bulletin*, December 1998, p.306.
- (16) See, for example, John Baldock, *The Elements of Christian Symbolism* (1997), p.108, entry "Rainbow".

SOME UNIQUE or VERY RARE EUROPEAN DOLLARS #34

John S. Davenport, Mount Dora, Florida, NI #602

HESSE-CASSEL

WILLIAM VI (1637-1663)

Hesse was divided in 1567 into four lines: Cassel, Darmstadt, Marburg, and Rheinfels. The last two survived only briefly. William VI was a minor when he succeeded his father in Cassel in 1637 under a regency of his mother. The Hesse landgraves hired out their soldiers as foreign mercenaries. As such some units fought for the English in the American Revolution.



TALER 1663

WILHELM·D·G·LANDG·HAS·PR·HERS·C·C·D·Z·N·ET·SC·, bust R.

FIDE * ET * IVSTITIA * 1663, crowned arms in palm sprays. I·G·B· below.

A 1661 date is similar.

Schutz 1142

Rare

Dav. 6784A

VIEQUES THE "ORPHAN" OF THE WEST INDIAN COUNTERMARKS

Edward Roehrs, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, NI #1828

"Seven miles from the nearest point on Puerto Rico's east shore we find the Island of Vieques, some twenty miles long and from three to six miles in width. Politically it belongs to Puerto Rico, geographically it might as well be counted as one of the U.S. Virgins (Danish West Indies)." So wrote E. Langhorne in her first chapter of *Vieques History of a Small Island* in 1987. If this statement is valid in 1987, it was most pertinent c.1850.

The Danish West Indies had their own coinage from 1740 to 1913, this included the issuance of a token coinage from 1888 to 1892 due to a shortage of small change related to the Mexican peso and the U.S. dollar. Puerto Rico on the other hand had a circulating coinage of clipped, sweated and holed Spanish and Spanish American cobs. It had been suffering from a shortage of recognizable full weight small change since c.1850. It would seem the inhabitants of Vieques would very readily accept the coinage of a sister island that was of full weight and recognizable in value.

Fonrobert in 1878, and I believe this is the earliest reference to the Vieques countermark, lists the following pieces thus:

Vieques, (Bieque, Crab- auch Krabben-Insel.)

#7751 (no date, 1850?) on the coat of arms of the Danish West Indies two reales of Christian VIII of 1840, (No. 7663 in this book) counterstamped 12 rayed star.

#7752 (no date, 1850?) on the coat of arms of the Danish West Indies two reales of Frederik VII of 1848, (No. 7675 in this book) counterstamped 16 rayed star.

#7753 (no date, 1850?) on the coat of arms of the Danish West Indies one real of Christian VIII of 1845, (No. 7666 in this book) counterstamped 12 rayed star.

#7754 (no date, 1850?) on the coat of arms of the Danish West Indies cuartino of Frederik VII of 1848, (No. 7677 in this book) counterstamped 13 rayed star.

Fonrobert places the use of this countermark c.1850 and, as his catalogue was published only 30 years later than the last dated coin of the counterstamped Danish West Indian pieces, it would seem it was fresh in the memory of contemporary numismatists and should be accepted as a fact. There is the slight possibility that if the 1848 X & XX plain edged pieces were counterstamped it would bring the stamping date after 1856. It also must be remembered that at this time the Danish West Indies was countermarking United States quarters and halves with the cipher of Frederik VII of Denmark to prevent re-exportation. This was prior to the introduction of the new monetary system in 1859.

In 1850 Vieques existed from the export of sugar cane, timber, pasture, local fruits and smuggling. The sugar economy was just started to emerge. It was populated with less than 3000 souls of English, French, Danish and Spanish in the landowner class. The laboring class were local people and runaway slaves from neighboring islands (the Spanish offered freedom if they embraced Catholicism) and many Tortoleans. Economically, they were tied to the Danish Islands. In 1851 of the 36 ships that unloaded in Vieques, 1/3 were Spanish and 2/3 were Danish or English. Most of the supplies and machinery (sugar) came from the freeport of St. Thomas, and most of the non local financing was done with the Danes in St. Thomas. Unlike most of Puerto Rico, which was held in a tight reign, Vieques leaned toward a laissez-faire policy and the powers that be could do as they pretty much pleased without too much interference from the Spanish authorities in San Juan.

The people of Vieques were very familiar with the values of the Danish coinage and it would seem illogical that the II, X and XX skillings would be accepted just as Fonrobert had done in his catalogue; i.e. cuartino (1/2 real), one real & two reales. The Danish West Indian II skilling contained only .250 fine silver and the X & XX skilling .625 fine silver respectfully. Given the condition of the circulating silver in Puerto Rico at that time it could well be a fact that it was accepted as reales. It would seem more likely that it was accepted as it was in the Danish West Indies.

Please bear in mind that no official decrees have been uncovered to validate the countermarking of the Danish West Indian pieces. I am of the opinion that it was done in an unofficial manner by the merchants of Vieques when they received the coinage of the Danish West Indies in the hope it would not leave the Island, a practice employed by most of the West Indian Islands.

There are three types of countermarks: 12, 13 & 16 pointed rayed "star" punched on the obverse (shield) of the coin. However it is very difficult to ascertain the exact number of rays emanating from the "star" from the various coins that have been photographed in the past. Bergsøe (1921) #1069 is at hand and has 13 rays not 12 and by the same token the Gibbs specimen (1966) #1947 has 13 rays not 12.

Jørgen Sømmod of Denmark notes the following pieces with the "rayed star" countermarks and the census of known pieces in parenthesis ().

XX Skilling	1816,	1840,	1848	(3)
X Skilling		1845,	1848	(4)
II Skilling	1816, 1837,		1847, 1848	(6-9)
			Total	(13-16)



Byrne Lot #1202

This countermark, unless noted on any of the above Danish West Indian coins, has nothing to do with Vieques, as most of the odd denominations would be meaningless to the inhabitants. The Byrne Sale (1975) Lot #1202: "12 rayed Circle" with "V" in center, "C/S on half cut of Spanish American 2 reales" is an example plus various copper pieces stamped with a "wheel of life", purporting to be a "rayed star" or a "V" on a variety of coins.

Fig. 1 illustrates the enlarged 13 rayed countermark on a 1816 II skilling, which was found in Denmark, 1995, in a pill box along with several other coins, the property of the widow of a prominent man born in St. Thomas. The pill box dated September 6, 1910 from the St. Thomas Apothecary Hall owned by A. H. Riise who sold his business and moved to Denmark c.1919. Weight 1.161g.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Fig. 2 illustrates the enlarged 13 rayed countermark on a 1816 XX skilling, ex Bergsøe (1903) #1069 (plate piece); ex Howland Wood; ex Friedberg (Gimbels); ex Kurt Fisher. Weight 4.9701g.

In the forthcoming book *West Indies Countermarked Silver Coins* by R. C. Gordon, the Vieques countermark shall be assigned its proper numbers.

(Permission by the author is granted to all those persons who might choose to reprint this article. Numismatics International should received a credit line for the original publication of the article.)

NOTGELD OF SAALFELD IN EAST PRUSSIA

Saalfeld in East Prussia, now called Zalewo, issued round iron five, ten and fifty pfennig coins, undated, during World War I.

The city, located at the edge of Lake Ewing, shows on its coat of arms St. John in a boiling oil kettle on a flaming wood pile.

The three coins ordered for the city from Otto Christmann in Leipzig were delivered on September 4, 1918, and all were in circulation by September 24th.

Mintage figures were as follows: 5 pfennig - 9,993; 10 pfennig - 10,007; and 50 pfennig - 9,928.

Initial redemption period for the coins extended from June 2, 1920 to July 1, 1920. This was extended to December 31, and later to June 30, 1921. Redemption was completed January 1, 1922.

Dr. E. Scharf, Mundenheim, purchased coins valued at 101.10 marks from the city after redemption was completed. Another 250 marks worth were sold to others.

THE PARIS MINT, c.1909

(Extract from *A Wanderer in Paris*, by E. V. Lucas, London 1913 p.167-169)

The Hôtel des Monnaies, close by the Beaux Arts, is another surprise. One would expect in such a country as France, with its meticulously exact control of its public offices, that its Mint, the institution in which its money was made, would be a miracle of precision and efficiency. Efficiency it may have; but its proceedings are casual beyond belief: the workmen in the furnaces loaf and smoke and stare at the visitors and exchange comments on them; the floors are cluttered up with lumber; the walls are dirty; the doors do not fit. A very considerable amount of work seems to be accomplished—there are machines constantly in movement which turn out scores of coins a minute, not only for France but for her few and dispiriting colonies and for other countries; and yet the feeling which one has is that France here is noticeably below herself.

I was shown round by a very charming attendant, who handled the new coins as though he loved them and took precisely that pride in the place that the Government seems to lack. The design on the French franc, although it ought to be cut, I think, a little deeper, a little more boldly, is very attractive, both obverse and reverse, and it is a pleasant sight to see the bright creatures tumbling out of the machine as fast as one can count. Pleasanter still is it to the frail human eye when the same process is repeated with golden Louis'—baskets full of which stand negligently about as though it were the cave of the Forty Thieves.

An Englishman's perhaps indiscreet questions as to what precautions were taken to prevent leakage amused the guide beyond all reason. "It is impossible," he said; "the coins are weighed. They must correspond to the prescribed weight." "But who," my countryman went on, in the relentless English way, "checks the weigher?" "Another," said the guide. "But a time must come," continued the Briton, who probably had a business of his own and had suffered, "when there is no one left to check—when the last man of all is officiating: how then?" Our guide laughed very happily, and repeated that there were no thieves there; and I daresay he is right. "Perhaps," I said, to the English inquisitor, "perhaps, like assistants in sweet shops, they are allowed at first to help themselves so much that they acquire a disgust for money." He looked at me with eyes of stone. I think he had Scotch blood. "Perhaps," he said at last.

My own contribution to the guide's entertainment was the production, before a machine that was shooting five-franc pieces into a bowl at the rate of one a second, of the four bad (*démonétisé*) coins of the same value which had been forced upon me during the few days I had then been in Paris. They gave immense delight. Several mintners (or whatever they are called) stopped working in order to join in the inspection. It was the general opinion that I had been badly treated: although, of course, I ought to have known. Three of the coins were simply those of other nations no longer current in France, and for them I could get from two to three francs each at an exchange. Unless, of course, a man of the world put in, I liked to sell them to a waiter, and then I should get perhaps a slightly better price. "Be careful, however," said he, "that he does not give them back to you in the next change." The fourth coin

was frankly base metal and ought not to have taken in a child. That, by the way, was given to me at a Post Office, the one under the Bourse, and I find that Post Offices are notorious for this habit with foreigners. The mintners generally agreed that it was a scandal, but they did so without heat—bearing indeed this misfortune (not their own) very much as their countryman La Rochefoucauld had observed men to do.

After the coins we saw the medal-stampers at work, each seated in a little hole in the ground before his press. The French have a natural gift for the designing of medals, and they are interested in them as souvenirs not only of public but of private events—such as silver weddings, birthdays and other anniversaries. Upstairs there is a collection of medals by the best designers—such as Roty, Patey, Carial, Chaplain, Dupuis, Dupré—many of them charming. Here also are collections of the world's coinage and of historical French medals.

(Submitted by Bob Forrest)

NOTGELD NOTES OF THE BRITISH ZONE OF OCCUPATION

Elmer E. Wright and Mary L. Wright

After January of 1945 the notes issued by the "Reichskreditkassen" (German Government Loan Office) had become worthless as money. They were first issued in Poland, 2 October 1939, by order of the Supreme Army Commander, dated 23 September 1939. Before the war was over, these had circulated in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, France, Luxemburg, Russia, Yugoslavia and the islands of Jersey and Guernsey.

In order to combat a shortage of currency, the Reichskreditkassen notes were declared legal tender in the British Zone, when officially stamped by an office of the Reichsbank. One of the Reichsbanks furnished a supply of the 5, 20 and 50 mark notes, for use as Notgeld, by means of an official bank stamp. These notes were good until 5 April 1946. The following issues are known, there may be others. All such notes are rare.

Flensburg	20 mk Reichsbank authority
Heidi	50 mk Reichsbank branch
Heidi	50 mk Reichsbank authority
Husum 1	20 mk Reichsbank authority
Husum 3	50 mk Reichsbank authority
Kappeln	20, 50 mk Reichsbank branch
Kiel	50 mk Reichsbank branch
Newmunster	50 mk Reichsbank branch
Rendsburg	5, 50 mk Reichsbank branch
Schleswig	20, 50 mk Reichsbank branch

CATALOG REVISIONS

John S. Davenport, Mount Dora, Florida, NI #602

MINOR BRUNSWICK DUCHIES

CALENBERG



8998A

TALER 1559/1557

Obv. 8998.

Rev. 8997.



9010A

TALER 1582

Like 9010 with 8 - 2 under man's arms.

GRUBENHAGEN



9016

TALER 1569



9017A

TALER, n.d. [1572]

With WOL·E·PH·D·G· -

HARBURG

6403

Delete.



6408

TALER 1637-1639



6409

TALER 1638

DANNENBERG



6428

TALER 1620

NOTES ON MODERN COPPER AND BRONZE COINS OF AFRICA

(From a paper presented to the Albany Numismatic Society)

(Reprinted from HOBBIES - The Magazine for Collectors, July, 1951, p.125-126 and September, 1951, p.131-132.)

In the past, the coins of Africa, when listed at all, have usually been classified under the dependencies of one or another of the European nations. Such treatments seems no longer appropriate. The modern coins of Africa now form a series extensive enough to warrant a separate compartment in the cabinet of the general collector.

Since the earliest times barter has played an important part in African trade. Cowrie shells, various beads, pieces of cloth, and lengths of brass or copper wire have served as substitutes for money in various localities. Even today we read of lumps of salt and empty cartridge shells being used for small change in parts of Ethiopia. Most of these things are beyond the scope of this paper. However, the standard bronze rings, that once circulated on the Gold Coast, might be considered a sort of token coinage. These rings, with well formed flattened ends, are said to have been privately minted at Birmingham, England, for use in the West African trade. Whether they were copied after some native African ornament or modelled after the ring money of Ancient Britain is questionable.

The Portuguese were the first modern Europeans to exploit to any extent the West African coast. Driven first by the support and encouragement of Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460), and later by the thought of riches to be gained in gold, slaves, ivory, and spices, the Portuguese became strongly conscious of the unknown lands to the south.

The papal bull of 1441 granted to Portugal nearly all of Africa and, for a time, at least, secured her monopoly. In 1482 Fort Sao Jorge da Mina (Elmina), the first permanent settlement on the west coast, was founded.

On the Portuguese coins of King Emanuel I (1495-1521), we find the title of pretense, "Lord of Guinea and Ethiopia". It was Emanuel, by the way, who promoted the famous expedition of Vasco da Zama. Even before Vasco da Zama's voyage, a Portuguese traveler had penetrated to Ethiopia and had brought back stories which led the Portuguese to believe they had found the realm of the legendary Christian king, Prester John. For some years Jesuit missionaries attempted to convert the Ethiopians to Roman Catholicism. But in 1663, all foreigners were expelled from Ethiopian territory.

One of the earliest coins of modern times struck especially for Africa is thought to have been a copper real of Emanuel (1495-1521). This piece bears on the obverse a crowned monogram of the king, and on the reverse, the five shields of Portugal.



Portuguese Africa, 1/4 Macuta, 1763

Under Joseph I (1750-77) copper coins were issued in denominations of V, X, XX, and XL reis, and 1/4, 1/2, and 1 macuta, for use in the African colonies. Denominations of from 1/4 to 2 macuta were issued in the name of Maria I and Pedro III (1777-86), Maria I alone (1786-99), Prince Regent John (1799-1816), Michael I (1831), Maria II (1828-53), and Pedro V (1853-61). These issues, while quite similar in type, vary considerably in size and weight.

The coins up to and including those of Maria I are frequently found with the denomination obliterated by a crude counterstamp of the Portuguese shield. This punch mark is thought to have been used during the reign of John to increase the value of the older and heavier pieces.

Copper coins for the islands of Sao Tome and Principe, in the Gulf of Guinea, were struck at the Rio de Janeiro mint under John VI as Prince Regent (1813-15), and as King (1819-25). These coins in denominations of from 10 to 80 reis, very closely resemble those of Brazil except that the value is expressed in figures in place of Roman numerals. The coins are further distinguishable by being about half the size of Brazilian coins of corresponding value and mintage.



Sao Tome and Principe, 80 Reis, 1813R



Mozambique, II (2) Reis, 1853

For the colony of Mozambique, on the southeast coast, copper coins of light weight were issued during the reign of Maria II. The first coinage of 1840, in denominations of 20, 40 and 80 reis, bore a simple crowned shield, with the value in figures. The

second coinage of 1853, in denominations of I and II reis, bore a crowned shield within an ornate cartouche with value expressed in Roman numerals. In 1936 there was issued bronze 10 and 20 centavos for Mozambique. The principle device on this issue is a shield bearing in the dexter field the five small shields of Portugal, and in the sinister field the globe of Brazil, both displayed over conventional waves of the sea.

The British at an early date established temporary slave trading posts on the Sierra Leone coast, competing with the Portuguese, French and Dutch. However, the existing colony there is rather the outgrowth of a plan, by certain somewhat misguided philanthropists, to establish there a refuge for freed negroes. The scheme was to found a colony for negroes discharged from British service at the close of the American Revolution, and for those run away slaves who had found their way to London. In 1787, the settlement was begun with 400 negroes and 60 Europeans; the whites being mostly women of abandoned character. In most respects the first settlement quite naturally proved a complete failure. The venture did however secure for the British the best harbor on the whole west coast. In 1791 a new settlement was laid out and the promoters received a charter as the Sierra Leone Company. In the name of this company a copper cent 1791-96 and a penny 1791 were issued. On the obverse a rather meek looking lion stands at bay, and on the reverse, two hands are clasped. In 1807, after no end of difficulties, the company transferred its rights to the British Crown.



Sierra Leone Company, 1 Cent, 1791



Sierra Leone, Medal Issue, 1807

Incidentally, it was in 1807 that, through the efforts of William Wilberforce and other reformers, slave trade was officially prohibited by Great Britain. On this occasion a copper medal of 35 mm. was struck to proclaim the new law. Though this piece is neither a coin nor a token, it was probably intended to be widely distributed in Africa. The obverse bears in the foreground the standing figures of a negro and an Englishman shaking hands. In the background is a native village with groups of natives working and dancing around a tree. Above is the description, "We are all

brethren," and in the exergue, "Slave trade abolished by Great Britain, 1807." The reverse inscription, for the benefit of slave traders, proclaims the new prohibition in Arabic. As an example of low relief die cutting the medal show unusual treatment of perspective.

In 1816 a group of American abolitionists founded the American Colonization Society, with the object in mind of establishing on the African coast a colony for freed negroes. In 1820 the first settlers landed on what was then known as the Grain Coast. In 1833 there was issued in the name of the society a large copper cent. On the obverse a negro stands under a palm tree against the setting sun, waving farewell to a ship at sea. The inscription above reads "Liberia", with the date "1833" below. The reverse is inscribed, "American Colonization Society, Founded A.D. 1816, one cent."



Liberia, Token Issue, One Cent, 1833



Liberia, Two Cents, 1862

In 1847 the society ceded the territory it had acquired, and Liberia was declared a Republic. On this occasion there was issued a handsome pair of coppers in denominations of one cent and two cents. The obverse bears a fine head of Liberty with classic features and wearing a Phrygian cap. On the reverse a single coconut tree stands on a desert shore, and on the distant horizon a steamship. The incuse inscriptions, "Republic of Liberia", "one cent", and "1847" are sunk deeply into a broad raised rim, similar to that found on the old British cartwheels. In 1862 a second issue of the same type was struck. The uncrowded simplicity of these coppers, combined with their practical wear-resisting design, places them indisputably among the finest examples of modern coinage.



Liberia, One Cent, 1889

In 1889 a small cent of the same size and composition as that of the United States was issued. The obverse bears the shield of Liberia, with "Republic of Liberia" above and date below. The shield, somewhat similar to that of our own country, has eleven pales in the lower field and a single star in the upper. The reverse bears the value, within an oak wreath, with a single star between the wreath tips.

In 1896 and 1906 a new type larger bronze was issued. The obverse bears a beautiful laureate head of Liberty. On the reverse is a coconut tree, a dove bearing a message, a distant sail ship, and the setting sun — all within a beaded circle.



Liberia, One Cent, 1896



Liberia, One Cent, 1937

In 1937, a light colored bronze coin in denominations of one-half, one, and two cents was issued. These coins have a reverse very similar to that of the 1906 issue. The obverse, however, shows an elephant with upraised trunk strolling to the left. The issue is said to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the country's independence.

We would like to believe that those rare individuals who, a century ago, fought so wholeheartedly for the anti-slavery cause did not struggle in vain. We would like to believe that the strength of their ideals stamped out for all time the revolting traffic in human beings. We learn, however, that as late as 1930 an international commission investigated and exposed the existence of slavery in Liberia, and that in the year 1927 some 250,000 slaves were declared free in Sierra Leone. It is when we recall the early history of these two settlements and the ideal of liberty on which they were both supposedly founded, that the irony of these facts becomes so striking.

The lonely island of St. Helena, while located some 1200 miles off the west coast, is associated more closely with Africa than with any other continent. The island is perhaps most widely known as the detention place of Napoleon Bonaparte. During the period of Napoleon's exile there, 1815-1821, the place was under military rule and was strongly garrisoned by regular troops. On Napoleon's death, 1821, the garrison was for the most part withdrawn, and the British East India Company resumed full



St. Helena, Halfpenny, 1821

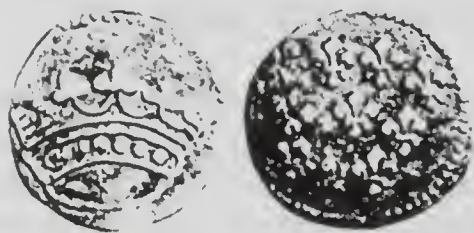
control. On this occasion there was issued a halfpenny token dated 1821 and bearing as a chief device the company's arms. Another token quite frequently met with is an undated halfpenny of Solom, Dickson, and Taylor, inscribed, "Payable at St. Helena," and bearing the monogram, "S.D.T."

The Island of Mauritius, which lies in the Indian Ocean to the east of Madagascar, was acquired by Britain in 1810. For this island there were issued (1873-1901) bronze coins in denominations of one, two, and five cents, the Mauritius cent being equivalent to a hundredth part of a rupee. These bear the crowned head of Victoria



Mauritius, 5 Cents, 1883

facing left. On the reverse within a beaded circle, is a large figure denoting the denomination, with "Mauritius" above, value and date below. Similar coins are said to have been struck (1922-1934) bearing a crowned bust of George V.



Reunion, 1/2 Fanam, ND(1723) Reunion.

The neighboring island of Reunion belongs to France, and is in fact an integral part of that country politically. To this island are ascribed a pair of crude copper coins bearing on one side a large crown and on the other side nine fleur-de-lis. The coins in denomination of ½ fanam and 1 fanam bear no inscription nor date. They are said to have been struck at Pondichery, French India, about 1723, for circulation at

For the Island of Madagascar there was issued, probably at Paris, a pattern 10 centime piece dated 1883 in the name of Queen Ranavalona III, last ruler of the Hava Dynasty. This bears on the obverse a crown and wreath, encircled by the queen's name and title; and on the reverse, within a wreath, the value and date. This first year of the queen's reign, 1883, saw the beginning of a rather futile war with France which ended with Madagascar being declared a French protectorate, 1885. A second war against French expansion broke out in 1894 which ended with the queen's exile, 1896, and Madagascar being declared a French colony.



Comoros, 10 Centimes, AH1308A

To the north of Madagascar lies Great Comoro Island, of Angazia, the largest of the Comoro Archipelago. The island, now under the colonial administration of Madagascar, was, between the years 1886 and 1910, a French protectorate. In the year 1890 or 1891, there were struck five and ten centime pieces in the name of the Sultan. The inscription in

Persian characters read on the obverse, "Sultan of Angazia, Said Ali, Son of Said Omar—Protected by the Glorious French Government." The reverse inscription, within a wreath of olive and palm, reads, "5 (or 10) centimes of the State of Angazia, God preserve it. Year 1308 (A.H.)." Below are mintmarks of Paris.

Another East African sultanate to be overwhelmed by the strength of European imperialism was that of Zanzibar. The Arabs of Masgat established their capital at Zanzibar in 1832, conquered Mombasa 1837, and gradually extended their territory to include a considerable strip of the coast.

In 1882 the sultan, Bargash ibn Said, issued a copper Pysa. The obverse displays a pair of balanced scales, similar to that on the coins of Bombay, and the date "1299." The reverse bears the sultan's name and titles, "God guard him." Both sides have an arabesque border.



Zanzibar, Pysa, AH1299

The extensive territories on the mainland were divided between Great Britain and Germany in 1886, and, by the treaty of 1890, the island of Zanzibar itself was recognized as a British protectorate.

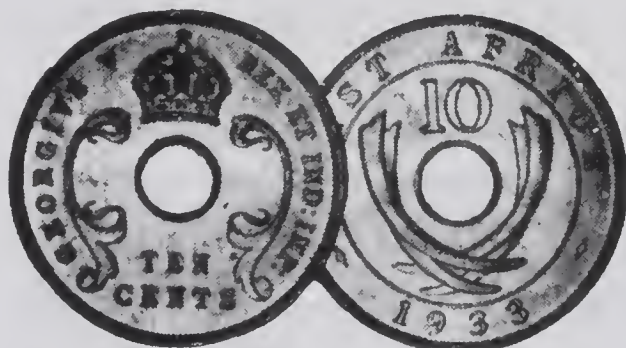


British East Africa Co., Pice, 1888

In 1888 the Imperial British East Africa Co., received a charter to develop (exploit) these acquisitions. On this occasion, a quarter anna or pysa was struck in the name of the company. This also bears a pair of scales on the obverse, together with the date, 1888, and the company's name. In the reverse field is the Arabic inscription within a beaded circle. Above this is the border legend, "Mombasa 1306," and below is

a half wreath of olive. Some of the coins bear the mintmark "H", for Birmingham; others have a superimposed "MO" possibly for Mombasa.

In 1895, when the Imperial Company sold its rights to the government, the British East African Protectorate was constituted. In 1930-1933 there were issued for East Africa a set of bronze coins in denominations of one, five and ten cents, the cent being a hundredth part of a shilling. These three coins all have 7mm. holes in the center, flanked by ornamental scrolls and surmounted by the imperial crown. Below is the value. The inscription, in abbreviated Latin, reads, "George V, King and



East Africa, 10 Cents, George V, 1933



East Africa, 10 Cents, Edward VIII, 1936

Emperor of India." On the reverse, the hole and denomination are flanked by four tusks of ivory, with "East Africa", above, and date below. In 1936 similar coins of five and ten cents were issued in the name of Edward VIII. The five cent piece bears the mint mark of the Kings Norton Metal Co., and the ten cent piece that of Birmingham.



A series of brass or light colored bronze coins were struck in 1920-1936 for British West Africa. These pieces in denominations of three pence, six pence, shilling, and florin, bear, on the obverse, the crowned bust of George V with titles. "By the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India," in abbreviated Latin. The three pence

and sixpence have, on the reverse, the value within an oak wreath, with "British West Africa" above and date below. It is interesting to note that, though these coins all bear the bust and name of George V, some of them were issued in 1936 during the reign of Edward VIII.



Borel Lavalley & Co., 1 Franc, 1865

Ch. & A. Bazin, 5 Francs, 1865

During the construction of the Suez Canal, 1860-1869, various tokens were issued by merchants doing business there. Among these are the 20 centime, 50 centime, and 1 and 5 franc brass pieces of Borel Lavalley and Co., bearing on the obverse a sailing vessel. Brass tokens, bearing on the obverse a galley, were issued by Ch. and A. Bazin, provision merchants, in denominations of 20 and 50 centimes, 1 and 5 francs. Both of these issues are dated 1865.

As one of the results of the Napoleonic Wars, Cape Colony was ceded to the British Crown, 1814. The British at first seemed little interested in the country itself, using it rather as a stepping stone to India. The land was for the best part occupied by Dutch farmers (Boers), thousands of whom, due to friction with the English, migrated to the wild country to the north and established the independent states of Transvaal and Orange Free State.

For Orange Free State, a number of pattern pennies were issued. On one variety is a shield, bearing an orange tree and three powder horns, within a wreath of olive and palm. The chief inscription reads, "Oranje Vryjstaat". Below is the scroll motto, "Geduld en Moed" (Patience and Courage) and the date 1888. The reverse displays the value "1 penny" within a wreath of oak and olive. Another variety of the same date is very similar except that the shield is somewhat different, a lion and a trek-wagon being added to the arms.



Orange Free State, 1 Penny, 1888



Cape of Good Hope, 1 Penny, 1889

For Cape Colony itself there was issued a pattern penny dated 1889. On the obverse is the young head of Queen Victoria with name and titles. The reverse displays a shield bearing the Dutch lion rampart and three fleurs-de-lis, supported by an antelope (?) and goat. Above is a tiny seated figure of the Goddess of Hope, and below is the scroll, "Spes Bona". The inscription reads, "Cape of Good Hope, 1889".



Griquatown, (Penny), ND(1890)

For Griqualand, a region to the west of Kimberley, there were issued pattern pennies struck from the same obverse die as the preceding piece. The reverse displays a dove flying with olive branch (a rather futile flight it must have been) and the legend, "Griqua-Town". The pennies are found with and without the date, "1890". There exists also halfpennies and farthings of the same general reverse type.

In 1885 gold was discovered in southern Transvaal. The ensuing rush of foreigners and foreign capital, chiefly English, across the Vaal River, and the measures taken by the Boers to retain control of their own country, led to the declaration of war, 1899.

Under President Paul Kruger pennies were issued for Transvaal. These bore on the obverse a bust of Kruger and the inscription, "Zuid Afrik. Republiek". On the reverse, within a circular cartouche, is the national arms. The dexter quarter bears a crouching lion in a red field; the sinister quarter, a countryman in a blue field; at the base, a trekwagon in a green field; and in the center, an anchor of Hope. The value reads, "1 Penny", and the date "1892" or "1898".



Zuid Afrik. Republiek, Penny, 1898

At the close of the war Britain annexed the two Boer republics, but very wisely granted them self government, similar to that of other parts of the empire. In 1910 the colonies of Cape, Natal, Transvaal, and Orange River were formed into the Union of South Africa, with a single government and legislature.



South Africa, Penny, 1929

For South Africa there was issued, 1923-1934, a handsome set of bronze coins in denominations of one penny, halfpenny, and farthing. The obverses bear a bust of the king in coronation regalia, with the inscription, "Georgius V Rex Imperator". The reverses of the penny and the halfpenny display a square rigged sail ship, that of the farthing shows two sparrows

on a branch. The name of the country is inscribed in both languages, "South Africa, Zuid Afrika", separated by the date above and the denomination below. On some of the more recent issues, the Dutch version of South is spelled, "Suid", instead of "Zuid". All three reverses bear the initials of the designer, Kruger Gray.

In 1876 King Leopold II of Belgium organized a company to exploit the central watershed of the Congo River, and in 1885 formally assumed rulership over the so-called Congo Free State. In 1887 there were issued a series of copper coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, and 10 centimes. The obverse bears five crowned monograms placed in radial position within a beaded circle. Outside the circle are the king's name and titles. The reverse bears a radiant five-pointed star or pentacle with value above and date below. All four denominations have holed centers and knurled edges.



Congo Free State, 5 Centimes, 1887

Belgian Congo, 1 Centime, 1910

Protests in Great Britain and America, against the alleged practice of forced native labor in the Free State, led the Belgian ministry, in 1908, to assume complete responsibility for the administration of the colony, which was then given the name of Belgian Congo. In 1910, there were struck copper coins of 1 and 2 centimes quite similar to those of 1888. The five monograms, however, are those of Albert. The inscription in French and in Flemish reads, "Congo Belge-Belgisch Congo".

In late years there has been issued by the Bank of Belgium Congo a five franc piece of yellowish nickel-brass. The obverse, similar to that of the new Belgian nickel coins, bears the head of Leopold III, in low relief, with the king's name below, and date, "1936", at the right. The reverse bears a lion walking to the left, with a single star and denomination, "5 F R", below. The bank's name is inscribed above in French and below in Flemish.

COUNTERFEITS THAT ARE NOT COUNTERFEIT!

(Reprinted from Augusta & Alfred Szego's THIRTEENTH BULLETIN FOR 1980)

During the period between 1200-1800 AD we note that many cities, Italian, Dutch and French, imitated each others coinage. Very similar designs and even legends were used. The intent was not to defraud though a few crafty rulers did not hesitate to debase their imitations.

To better understand the situation at the time, the tradesman's problems should be surveyed. He had to deal with many different kinds of coins in different metals. No doubt all but a few very well known coins were heavily discounted.

The most accepted coins, such as the small silver of Genoa, Venice, Milan, Vienna, France and Great Britain were the models for vast numbers of look alikes. These imitations merely attested to a prescribed weight and purity equal to the original. Just imagine the risks every merchant underwent with each transaction. Every coin had to be examined closely, every legend had to be read and how many could read? These legends were almost invariably in Latin and paradoxically only the clergy, a few scholars and some (not all!) of the nobility could understand them.

Possibly, merchants kept comparison charts to help read their coins. Today, these imitations often command much higher prices than their original progenitors.

BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

Colombia Monedas Coloniales Circulares (Monedas de Cordoncillo), by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. 90 pp, photos throughout, 21 pages of pricing guide. Printed on gloss paper with paper cover. 170mm x 220mm (6.7 in. x 8.7 in.). Published by author, Medellin, Colombia, 1999. US\$35 postpaid in the USA. Herman Blanton, 934 W. High St., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050. E-mail: hblanton@yahoo.com

This privately published book is written by the authority on Columbian numismatics, Dr. Jorge Emilio Restrepo. It is Dr. Restrepo's seventh book on coins and completes the Colombian coinage series. It covers the milled coins struck in Colombia between 1756 and 1822, at the mints of Santa Fe (de Bogotá), Popayan, Santa Marta and Salazar of the Palms for the Spanish kings Ferdinand VI, Charles III and Ferdinand VII. The coinage series is often referred to as pillars and portraits. Written in Spanish, it is very easy to use for the non-Spanish reader, as there are 319 excellent photos, clear concise date listings and the coins are priced in US\$, in five different grades, VG - Unc. Dr. Restrepo is known for his accurate and reliable information and this volume is no exception. Additionally, it includes information and photos on the proclamation pieces.

Reviewed by Herman Blanton

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Ken Aring, 6740 Rosefield Dr., San Diego, CA 92115-2926 or e-mail evkaring@juno.com. Seeking information on privatization vouchers used by former communist countries. Interested in contact with collectors, dealers, researchers, and users for purpose of research and purchase.

Dean L. Johnson, 409 S. Main St., Edgerton, WI 53534: FOR SALE: *NI Bulletin*. Jan. 1981 thru Dec. 2000. Indices for 1980 thru 1999. Mail Bid Sales 37 thru 60. Plus Apr. 1975 issue, and one NIB 3-ring binder. \$93.00 value. Best offer over owner's minimum, plus shipping cost.

Bob Adam, 3012 N. Wilshire Lane, Arlington Heights, IL 60004-1750: Wish to buy RAUCH AUCTIONS, numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5 as well as NUMISMATICA WIEN, numbers 1, 4, 6, and 8-11.

Member Notice Page Request: Members are urged to use this page to publish your **free** member notices. Most using the page report good results. For information on the rules, see page 28 of the January 2001 issue or write to the editor. Preference will be given in the following order to notices where the page is filled in a single month:

1. Research notices.
2. Wanted items.
3. Trades offered.
4. For Sale items.